



MINNESOTA  
MUSEUM of  
AMERICAN ART

## MEDIA ALERT

### Media contact:

Susannah Schouweiler  
[sschouweiler@mmaa.org](mailto:sschouweiler@mmaa.org)  
(651) 204-0700

High-res architectural renderings, courtesy  
VJAA, are available for download [here](#).



## The M's Groundbreaking Ceremony on Jan. 30 with City and State Leaders Marks the Start of Construction and a New Beginning for St. Paul's Only Art Museum

St. Paul, MN, January 17, 2018—The Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M) will celebrate the start of construction on its expanded facility in the Historic Pioneer Endicott with a public groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, January 30, 2018. City of St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, former Mayor and gubernatorial candidate Chris Coleman, State Rep. Alice Hausman, and the M's Executive Director, Kristin Makholm, will offer brief remarks in the space slated for renovations to mark this defining moment for the museum.

### EVENT DETAILS

**When:** Tuesday, January 30, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.; Program runs from 10 – 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** Historic Pioneer Endicott, 141 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street (arrive via the Robert Street entrance), St. Paul, MN

**Who:** St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, former Mayor Chris Coleman, State Rep. Alice Hausman, and Kristin Makholm, Executive Director of the M

*Guests are invited to mingle and enjoy refreshments following the ceremony. Press photography during the event and interviews with museum leadership afterwards are welcome.*

Greiner Construction is beginning work on an expanded, permanent home for the museum within the Historic Pioneer Endicott, which has housed a small gallery space for the M since 2013. This \$12.5 million development project, the first in a two-phase process of constructing the museum facility, will involve major renovations of the building complex, originally designed by Cass Gilbert and Solon Beman. The new M will open in late 2018 and result in over 20,000 square feet of public space upon completion of the first phase of construction. Further expansion of the facility, slated for completion in 2019, will eventually increase the M's total footprint to approximately 36,000 square feet after all renovations are complete.

The M will reopen to the public in late 2018 with a state-of-the-art gallery, community gathering spaces, and a sculpture court, over which visitors will find a "sky bridge" extending skyway access into the museum. The inaugural exhibition will draw from the M's permanent collection and feature a number of visitor favorites which haven't been seen for years.

A centerpiece of the new museum's first phase of construction will be the Sifo Center for Creativity, named in honor of the Sifo Company, a historic toy company that thrived in St. Paul from 1944 to 1975. The Sifo Center for Creativity will feature 5,000 square feet of new classroom and maker spaces.

At the helm of development of the project is Sterns & Associates, project development consultant; AIA Award-winning architectural firm VJAA, which is responsible for its design; and Greiner Construction, which will lead the building process. Funding for construction of the museum's first phase of development in the Pioneer Endicott comes from an outpouring of community generosity: a mix of philanthropic donations, New Markets Tax Credit allocation and funding from Sunrise Banks, New Markets and Historic Tax Credit investment by USBancorp, Cultural STAR Program funds, tax increment financing (TIF) assistance from the City of St. Paul, and financing from Dougherty & Company.

## **About the Minnesota Museum of American Art**

The Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M) is one of the oldest visual arts organizations in Minnesota, with roots stretching back to the 19th century. Based in St. Paul, the M currently holds more than 4,500 artworks that showcase the unique voices of American artists, guided by the belief that art should reflect the constantly shifting landscape that defines the American experience. The museum has operated a flagship gallery in Lowertown St. Paul's Pioneer Endicott complex since 2013, as well as traveling shows which introduce art and artists to audiences around the state, region, and country at large. The M is home to an array of responsive exhibitions and programming that connect diverse audiences with artwork, subjects, and issues that are both relevant and widely engaging. A new, expanded facility for the museum is currently under construction in the Historic Pioneer Endicott, and the M will reopen to the public in late 2018. For more information, visit [www.mmaa.org](http://www.mmaa.org).

### **For press queries and interview requests, contact:**

Susannah Schouweiler, Communications Manager  
Minnesota Museum of American Art  
[sschouweiler@mmaa.org](mailto:sschouweiler@mmaa.org)  
(651) 204-0700

Image (top): Rendering of the public entrance to the new M, off of Robert Street, courtesy of VJAA

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